

History, at its best, cannot help us much in the tariff controversy. The crucial question as to the effect of protective duties on general prosperity eludes a specific answer. The tariff is but one of a thousand factors affecting the country's welfare, and by no means among the most important. Its effects are so covered and hidden by the effects of other causes, that it is practically impossible to follow them out to their end. There is no subject on which so much unwarranted nonsense is talked, on both sides, as on the question of protection. He who approaches it with so cock-sure an air as Mr. Thompson, and tells us glibly about the beneficent effect every high tariff has exercised, and about "the general embarrassment" which followed low duties, is, on the face of it, incompetent to tell us any thing worth listening to.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE third number of the *Internationales Archiv für Ethnologie* is full of interesting material. The journal has rapidly become the principal source of information to those whose studies refer to ethnological collections. Each number contains beautifully engraved color-plates showing interesting specimens. The text gives elaborate descriptions of these plates, and reports of numerous museums; descriptions of important accessions, of the organization of the collections, and information regarding smaller collections, which would otherwise be inaccessible to the student. The last number contains a description of the extensive collection made by Adrian Jacobsen among the Golds and Gilyaks, and a description of the native tribes of Liberia. Besides this, it contains interesting reports of current literature, recent explorations, and new collections.

— The second annual meeting of the Iowa Association for Scientific Research was held at Des Moines, Io., Sept. 5 and 6. Among the papers presented were, 'Local Problems in Science' (presidential address), by Herbert Osborn; 'My Experience in rearing *Vanessa antiopa*,' by F. M. Witter; 'On the Sedentary Habits of *Platyceras*,' by Charles R. Keyes; 'On the Folding of Carboniferous Strata in South-western Iowa,' by J. E. Todd; 'Descriptions of New *Cynipidae*,' by B. T. Gillette; 'The Pustulate *Unionidae*,' by R. Ellsworth Call; 'The Fauna of the Lower Coal-Measures at Des Moines, Io.,' by Charles R. Keyes; 'The *Cicadidae* of Iowa,' by Herbert Osborn; 'The Lineage of Lake Agassiz,' by J. E. Todd; 'From the Stamen-Petal,' by B. D. Halsted; 'Some Additional Observations on the Loess in and about Muscatine,' by F. M. Witter; 'The Geology of Crowley's Ridge, Arkansas,' by R. Ellsworth Call; 'On the Glacial Drift and Loess of a Portion of the North-Central Basin of Iowa,' by Clement L. Webster; and 'Descriptions of Two New Fossils from the Devonian of Iowa,' by Charles R. Keyes.

— An Italian engineer, M. Bocca, has just finished estimates for a ship-canal to cross Italy. The canal would start from Castro on the Mediterranean Sea, and end at Fano on the Adriatic. The length would be 282 kilometres, the width 100 metres, and the depth 12 metres, allowing large ironclads to pass. The canal would drain Lakes Perugia and Bolsena, and would allow of a systematic irrigation of that whole region. The cost is estimated at \$100,000,000. The work would occupy 200,000 men for five years.

— Dr. M. Eschenhagen, in a recent number of *Petermann's Mitteilungen*, calls attention to an attempt to explain the magnetic polarity of the earth and the situation of the magnetic poles. The theory was first propounded by Dr. Menzzer. He assumes that electrical currents flowing from east to west cause the magnetic polarity of the earth. If the surface of the earth were solid, these currents which depend upon the rotation of the earth would run exactly east by west. This is approximately the case in the strata lying below the average depth of the ocean. In the highest layers, however, the distribution of land and water affects these currents. When entering the ocean, they cause a locomotion of the water, and thus the geographical features of the earth's surface affect the polarity of the globe. Eschenhagen shows by a simple construction what

this effect would be on the southern hemisphere. He assumes that there are no electrical currents whatever in the ocean, and computes the influence of those of the continents according to the size, shape, and position of the latter. The result of this computation shows that the magnetic pole would be situated in latitude 76° 50' south, and longitude 183° 48'. According to Ross, its position is latitude 75° 6' south, and longitude 171° 50'. As the influence of the Antarctic continent has not been included in this computation, the result must be considered very satisfactory and encouraging to further work on Menzzer's hypothesis.

— The *Political Science Quarterly* for September contains three articles on constitutional questions, the most important of them being that by Sydney G. Fisher on the 'Suspension of *Habeas Corpus* during the War of the Rebellion.' Mr. Fisher reviews the action of President Lincoln in suspending the *habeas corpus* by his own fiat, and, after considering the arguments on both sides, comes to the conclusion that such action by the executive authority was wholly unwarranted. The Constitution, in his opinion, gives the power to suspend the writ to Congress, and not to the President, and with this opinion we cordially agree. The subject is one of great importance, and it is unfortunate that the Supreme Court has never had the opportunity of passing judgment upon it, so as to settle the question authoritatively. Mr. William A. Dunning has a somewhat rambling article on the 'Inequality of the States,' in which he expresses the opinion, that, owing to certain conditions imposed by Congress at the time of reconstruction, some of the Southern States are not on an equality with their sisters. Mr. Dougherty's paper, on the 'Constitutions of the State of New York,' is the first of a series, and will interest the people of the State, and students of institutions elsewhere. Prof. R. M. Smith concludes his discussion of the immigration question, expressing himself strongly in favor of restriction; yet he has little to propose in the way of restrictive measures beyond the more rigid enforcement of existing laws. The article in the *Quarterly* that will be likely to attract most attention is the opening one, by George Gunton, on the 'Economic and Social Aspect of Trusts,' in which he takes the ground that these colossal combinations of capital "are the natural consequence of modern industrial differentiation, and in their nature are economically wholesome, and politically and socially harmless." He confines himself mainly to the economic aspect of the subject, and overlooks some important facts connected with it; but his essay will be useful as a corrective of extravagant and unintelligent views on the other side of the question. On the whole, this number of the *Quarterly* is one of the best that has yet appeared.

— Harper & Brothers have in preparation Sir J. W. Dawson's 'Modern Science in Bible Lands.' — E. & F. N. Spon have now ready the third edition of 'Dynamo-Electric Machinery: a Manual for Students of Electrotechnics,' by Silvanus P. Thompson. Most of this treatise has been re-written for this edition, and much new matter has been added. The same firm announces as ready Sept. 1, 'The Elements of Electric Lighting,' including electric generation, measurement, storage, and distribution, by Philip Atkinson. They also publish 'Crystal Models,' by John Gorham, and the second edition of 'Short Lectures to Electrical Artisans,' being a course of experimental lectures delivered to a practical audience, by J. A. Fleming. — The September issue of the *American Magazine* opens with an article on 'The American Navy of To-day,' by Lieut. William F. Fullam, U.S.N. A feature of the article is a description of Captain Zalinski's dynamite cruiser, the 'Vesuvius.' The new cruisers are fully described. — With the issue of Aug. 30, *Light, Heat, and Power* becomes a weekly journal. — The Electric Light Convention, just closed in New York, was the most largely attended meeting yet held by the association, and the papers, reports, discussions, and addresses were of unusual interest and importance. Although the business of the convention only came to a close late Friday afternoon, Aug. 31, *The Electrical World* was out on Saturday morning with its usual full, carefully prepared stenographic report of the proceedings. — Dr. McCook's 'Tenants of an Old Farm' (New York, Fords, Howard, & Hulbert), published at \$2.50, will be sold this season at \$1.50.